(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Mining Operation by Western Coal Field Ltd.

4329. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Western Coal Fields Ltd. as started mining operations at a site near an ordnance factory in Chandipur in violation of established guidelines;

(b) if so, there reasons for permitting mining operation in violation of guidelines; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to stop it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. As per the guidelines issued by the Director General of Mines Safety, the blasting safety zone required around an opencast mine is 500 metres. Nearest mines of Western Coal fields Ltd., namely Chargaon OC (operations started in 1992-93), Telwasa OC and Dhorrwasa OC (operations yet to start) are approximately 7 Kms. away from the boundary of ordnance factory, Chandrapur. Another mine namely Bhatadih OC (operations started in 1995-96) is about 9 kms. away from the boundary of the ordnance factory.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Production Rate of Coal

4330. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the per-labourer, per shift average rate of coal production in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether there is a vast difference between the rate of underground coal production and that of open cast mines;

(c) if so, the average rates of production thereof separately; and

(d) the production rate of other coal producing countries such as Australia and America ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is a difference between average rate of coal production from underground and opencast mines in CIL and SCCL. The average figures of output per manshift (OMS) of underground and opencast mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) for the last three years are as under :-

(in tonnes)

	CIL			SCCL		
	UG	OC	Overall (OMS)	UG	OC	Overall (OMS)
1993-94	0.56	4.00	1.52	0.71	4.38	1.05
1994-95	0.57	4.36	1.54	0.69	3.63	1.08
1995-96	0.56	4.73	1.77	0.74	3.66	1.23

(d) Based on the available figures of 1992, the OMS of underground and opencast mines of Australia and USA is as under :

(In tonnes)

	Underground	Opencast
Australia	15.60	34.68
USA	18.00	40.20

Licence for Foreign Transaction

4331. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for requesting grant of licence to NABARD by the Reserve bank of India to undertake foreign exchange transactions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Export of Dairy Items

4332. SHRI NITISH BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :